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**CONFIRMATION NO. 4146**

<b>SERIAL NUMBER</b> 09/872,800	<b>FILING OR 371(c) DATE</b> 06/02/2001 <b>RULE</b>	<b>CLASS</b> 369	<b>GROUP ART UNIT</b> 2653	<b>ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.</b> S004-4309
<b>APPLICANTS</b> Takashi Niwa, Chiba-shi, JAPAN; Kenji Kato, Chiba-shi, JAPAN; Yasuyuki Mitsuka, Chiba-shi, JAPAN; Manabu Oumi, Chiba-shi, JAPAN; Nobuyuki Kasama, Chiba-shi, JAPAN; Susumu Ichihara, Shiba-shi, JAPAN; Hidetaka Maeda, Chiba-shi, JAPAN; Yoko Shinohara, Chiba-shi, JAPAN;				
<b>** CONTINUING DATA *****</b>  <b>** FOREIGN APPLICATIONS *****</b> JAPAN 2000-173852 06/09/2000 JAPAN 2000-371828 12/06/2000 JAPAN 2000-379266 12/13/2000 JAPAN 2001-126415 04/24/2001				
<b>IF REQUIRED, FOREIGN FILING LICENSE GRANTED</b> <b>** 08/01/2001</b>				
Foreign Priority claimed <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no 35 USC 119 (a-d) conditions <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> Met after met Allowance Verified and Acknowledged _____ Examiner's Signature Initials		<b>STATE OR COUNTRY</b> JAPAN	<b>SHEETS DRAWING</b> 20	<b>TOTAL CLAIMS</b> 20  <b>INDEPENDENT CLAIMS</b> 5
<b>ADDRESS</b> 40627				
<b>TITLE</b> METHOD FOR FORMING OPTICAL APERTURE, NEAR-FIELD OPTICAL HEAD, METHOD FOR FABRICATING NEAR-FIELD OPTICAL HEAD, AND INFORMATION RECORDING/READING APPARATUS				
<b>FILING FEE RECEIVED</b> 1532	FEES: Authority has been given in Paper No. _____ to charge/credit DEPOSIT ACCOUNT No. _____ for following:		<input type="checkbox"/> All Fees <input type="checkbox"/> 1.16 Fees ( Filing ) <input type="checkbox"/> 1.17 Fees ( Processing Ext. of time ) <input type="checkbox"/> 1.18 Fees ( Issue ) <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Credit	